

Montana Drought/Precipitation Summary

March 1, 2004

Montana weather and precipitation summary, February 2004.

February was generally dry across the state. A period around the 18th produced scattered rainfall of around 1/3 inch in the southwest and southeast. Again at the end of the month, scattered amounts fell, with up to 1.50 inches in the Nye area along with two feet of snow. Much of the rest of the state had below normal precipitation for the month. Cut Bank tied for the driest February on record, while at Great Falls it was the second driest on record, and Havre was the fourth driest of record. Temperatures varied widely. With a deep snow pack continuing in the northeast, temperatures were 9°F below normal at Wolf Point, with a monthly average of 11°F. Along the Rocky Mountain front, Great Falls was 4.7°F above normal, with a monthly average of 31.1°F. The coldest period of the month was during the first week, with more seasonal temperatures the rest of the month.

**Historical Rank of Precipitation (inches)
for the Past Month and Water Year to Date**

Location	Feb 1 - Feb 29	% of Normal	Oct 1 - Feb 29	% of Normal	Rank	Percentile	Years of Record
Billings	0.78	134	3.47	85	39 th driest	56 th	70
Bozeman	0.54	100	2.39	66	13 th driest	21 st	63
Butte	0.20	43	1.26	43	5 th driest	5 th	110
Cut Bank	T	0	0.60	32	5 th driest	5 th	101
Dillon	0.19	95	0.91	54	5 th driest	8 th	64
Glasgow	0.37	142	3.24	156	27 th wettest	85 th	111
Great Falls	0.06	12	0.86	25	1 st driest	1 st	112
Havre	0.06	17	0.95	39	3 rd driest	3 rd	124
Helena	0.17	45	1.32	53	1 st driest	1 st	124
Kalispell	0.42	37	5.64	84	34 th driest	32 nd	105
Lewistown	0.26	46	2.88	70	19 th driest	18 th	108
Livingston	0.67	197	3.36	114	48 th driest	48 th	101
Miles City	0.07	18	2.24	78	24 th driest	22 nd	111
Missoula	0.57	74	4.39	92	48 th driest	43 rd	111

For an automated version of this chart, updated daily, go to
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/greatfalls/getproduct.pl?PCPNTOTALS>

For a state map of % of normal water year precipitation (updated around the 7th of each month), go to:
http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls/tfx.php?TEXT+wateryear_percent.html

For the latest information on mountain snow pack from the NRCS, go to:
<http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/index.html>

For the latest U.S. Drought Monitor, issued weekly by the Climate Prediction Center (CPC), go to:
<http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>

Montana precipitation/temperature forecast.

As of March 1st, CPC forecasts equal chances of wetter or drier than normal conditions across Montana for the period through March 2004, and equal chances of cooler or warmer than normal temperatures forecast. For the period March through June, the forecast calls for a 55% chance of below normal temperatures over eastern Montana and equal chances of above or below normal temperatures elsewhere. It also calls for equal chances of wetter or drier conditions. Graphics and text relating to these outlooks, and additional long-range forecasts can be found at
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/multi_season/13_seasonal_outlooks/color/seasonal_forecast.html

Further inquiries about the moisture conditions can be directed to Dave Bernhardt, Gina Loss, or Ken Pomeroy at (406) 453-2081. Many more links can be found on the Drought Information Page of the NWS Great Falls web site at
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls/tfx.php?HTML+drought>